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## THE FARM CALENDAR

A radio talk delivered by Mr. W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, through Station WRC and 32 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, December 16, 1929 at 1:10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

### THE COMBINE

Every once in a while there is a development in farming which is of far-reaching consequence. The occasion of these remarks is the present rapid increase in the use of the combine for harvesting and threshing wheat. These machines have been used for many years on the Pacific Coast, but it was supposed that they were not adapted for use in the regions east of the Rocky Mountains, for it isn't safe to harvest wheat with a combine until it is dry enough to store without danger of spoilage. Regardless of warnings farmers in the plains region of the west about 10 years ago began to experiment with this new implement. They found that it worked all right though once in a while a farmer lost some wheat, because it was too damp to store in the granary. The great reduction in harvesting cost where the combine is used as compared with the older methods has resulted in its very general introduction in the plains region and its use is now spreading to the Atlantic Coast in sections where wheat is an important crop. It may, of course, be used for oats, barley, rye, and also for soybeans which are now coming to be an important crop in the corn belt.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 1-6-0-8 which has just been published gives the result of a careful study of farm experience with the combine. The title of this bulletin is "THE OPERATION AND CARE OF THE COMBINED HARVESTER-THRESHER," but in ordering it just call it the combine bulletin or Farmers' Bulletin No. 1-6-0-8.

### WILD GARLIC

Wild garlic has become one of the most troublesome weeds from Massachusetts to Georgia along the Atlantic Coast and inland to Missouri, Arkansas and Mississippi. In some places it has reached somewhat farther westward and is still spreading. The presence of garlic in pastures ruins the flavor of milk. Garlicky wheat produces garlic-tainted flour and bread. The garlic bulblets are about the size of wheat grains and are therefore difficult to separate from wheat, especially from freshly threshed grain. Other names for wild garlic are meadow garlic, field garlic, onion, and wild onion. The name wild onion, however, is applied also to several closely related but quite different plants. This, of course, results in confusion. Farmers and dairymen should learn to recognize wild garlic as it is more difficult to eradicate than the other species. Leaflet No. 43 of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture entitled "Wild Garlic and its Control," gives detailed information as to the best methods of controlling and eradicating wild garlic. This leaflet contains less than 5 pages of printed matter, but it tells the whole story.

### CAT TRAPS

Here is a new one on me - it is Leaflet No. 50 of only 4 pages entitled

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"How to make a Cat Trap!" I have painful recollections of my boyhood days when I attempted to catch stray cats with my bare hands and getting badly scratched and bitten, but this leaflet tells how to construct a very simple trap and how to set it so as to catch any stray cats that may be giving trouble around the chicken coops or the barn. If you are being troubled with stray cats about the premises don't fail to get a copy of Leaflet No. 50

#### CONCRETE

Concrete is becoming more and more important in the construction of farm buildings and for other purposes on the farm. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1-2-7-9 entitled "Plain Concrete for Farm Use," gives practical information on how to construct forms, mix concrete, estimate the quantity required and to put in concrete foundations and other structural work in the most approved fashion. This bulletin tells how to pour concrete foundations under water, how to make concrete that will be water tight, and how to make concrete that will resist fire damage, and many other points that everyone using concrete should know. Copies of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1-2-7-9 will be sent free as long as the supply lasts.